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April 23, 1999

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 106
Rockville, MD 20852

Re: #98N-1038 "Irradiation in the production, processing and handling of food"

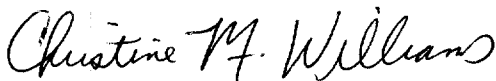
This letter is to strongly encourage the FDA to promote **clear and prominent labeling** of irradiated foods.

As an organic gardener and concerned parent, I am extremely particular and cautious with my food choices. I read labels carefully, and for health reasons need to be completely informed of ingredients and processing procedures in the foods I purchase. In my opinion, based on personal research, it is apparent that irradiation of food can produce significant changes in taste, nutritional content, and texture. Irradiation destroys vitamins and causes changes in the food composition that have strong potential to be harmful to the consumer. Consumers have the **right to know** if foods they purchase have been subjected to irradiation, as there can be serious health consequences associated with this process.

Therefore, I **strongly encourage prominent labeling**, and very specific use of the terms "irradiated" or "irradiation", as well as the use of the international irradiation symbol (radura) on all foods that have undergone this process. The radiation disclosure statement IS meaningful to consumers so that they can make informed food choices. The absence of such labeling, or reducing it to the size of an ordinary ingredient, would be completely misleading. Further, terminology such as "cold pasteurization" and "electronic pasteurization" is also completely misleading and should not be used.

In addition, clear and prominent labeling of irradiated foods needs to be permanent and should **NOT expire** at any time in the future.

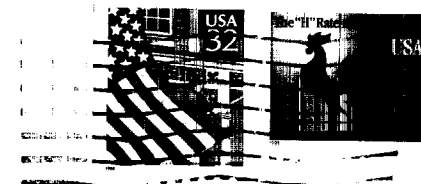
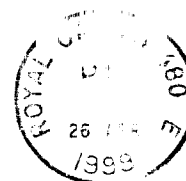
Sincerely,



Christine M. Williams

98N-1038

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